



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **SACCO/VANZETTI CASE**

## **PART 9 OF 14**

**FILE NUMBER : 61-126**

SUBJECT

Sacco/Vanzetti

FILE NUMBER

61-126

SECTION NUMBER

7

SERIALS

714 - 750

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#132

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
P. O. Box 239,  
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

September 17, 1926.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-5 JMC

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI

Enclosed you will find copy of the Boston Post and  
copy of the Boston American for September 17, 1926 in re  
above subjects.

These issues treat in comprehensive form, as in the  
past few days, of the remarks of William H. Thompson, counsel  
for the defense, in his efforts to secure a new trial for the  
above named individuals.

At this writing the Government is making its argu-  
ment through Assistant District Attorney Ranney for the County  
of Norfolk, Mass.

I particularly invite your attention to the concluding  
paragraphs of William H. Thompson's arguments which you will  
find on page 18 of the Boston Post for Sept. 17th.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Dowd*  
JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

61-126  
SEP 21 1926 RECORDED

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

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D.C.  
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SEP 21 1926	
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#157

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation

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1926  
DIVISION #2

P. O. Box 239,  
Boston, Mass.

Sept. 24, 1926.

PERSONAL  
and  
CONFIDENTIAL.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF duke  
DATE 9/28/26

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED  
SEP 27 1926  
DIVISION #2

Dear Sir:

In reply to your communication of the 16th instant, relative to a summary of the contents of the files of the Boston office in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, I desire to advise that such a summary is now in process and will be transmitted to you within the course of the next few days.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*  
JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD/a.

61-126

OCT 5 1926

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 ATG/mc  
ON 6/29/82

RECORDED

61-126-715

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEP 27 1926 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Div. ( )  
Div. Two

FILE

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DATE 6/19/82 BY SP8 BTJ/muc

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

61-126-716

July 20, 1922

Ministry of Justice;

We transmit to you  
the acceptance  
of which was unanimously  
expressed in a public demon-  
stration in Köln on Sunday  
the 16th of June 1922  
follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10/15/80 BY SP-6/ABC  
Workmen and Workwomen  
of the Rhine of whom 10,000  
assembled in Köln, receive  
with disgust and indignation  
the knowledge of the death  
sentence of Sacco and  
Vanzetti. Demand that  
American Govt. to denounce  
the death sentence and  
release both as guiltless  
victims of the American  
justice system.



# The Nation

FOUNDED 1865

T. SEPTEMBER 29, 1928

No. 3192

"Lallemant!" with one breath and "Whiskey!" with the next—he was indisputably a product of Gaul. And now the men tennis stars—Lacoste, Cochet, Borotra, and Brugnon—three of whom mowed down all competitors and entered the semifinals of our national tennis tournament; one of whom, Borotra, downed Johnston and Vincent Richards on successive days and then lost the silver cup to his teammate Lacoste, who had beaten Tilden's conqueror—what are they if not a product of that exhausted post-war France which, with its low birth-rate, its diet of frogs and snails, and its wild, wild ways, was doomed forever? Here, as much as at Verdun, is the spirit of France—a France that takes sport with a laugh and wins.

**WHAT IS ATTORNEY GENERAL SARGENT** going to do about Sacco and Vanzetti? The completion of the hearing for a new trial confirms the story of the case presented by *The Nation* last week in which responsibility for the conviction of two probably innocent men was placed primarily upon the federal Department of Justice. William G. Thompson, counsel for the condemned men, submitted to Judge Webster Thayer affidavits from two former agents of the Department of Justice, Lawrence Letherman and Fred J. Weyand, that the machinery of the federal government had been used to convict Sacco and Vanzetti of murder although it was the opinion of those working on the case that the two Italians were not guilty of the crime charged. The real crime of the two men, in the eyes of the Department of Justice, was that they were aliens and radicals. Because they could not be deported "it was," Letherman swore, "the opinion of the Department of Justice agents here [in Boston] that a conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti for murder would be one way of disposing of them." Letherman added that "the letters and evidence on file in the Boston office would throw a great deal of light on the preparation of the case." A. Mitchell Palmer and not the present Attorney General was responsible for the policy of the Department of Justice in 1920, but unless Mr. Sargent does his best to undo the wrong he makes himself an accomplice in the effort to send two probably innocent men to the electric chair. A Mr. Thompson said: "The government that values secrets more than it values the lives of citizens has become tyranny."

**MR. THOMPSON'S DEMAND** for a new trial seems to us impregnable. Dudley P. Ranney, retained by the State of Massachusetts to oppose the application, made a weak defense of the conduct of the prosecution in the case, failing wholly to meet the great issues involved. He made no effort to controvert the charges in the affidavits of Weyand and Letherman. On the contrary he defended the conduct of the federal government and fell back on the same argument that in revealing the facts Weyand and Letherman had been guilty of a breach of loyalty. Nor can one restrain impatience at finding Mr. Ranney relying on such technicalities in opposing a new trial as that the defense had been guilty of undue delay in making the motion. The fact that the case against Sacco and Vanzetti is now of no importance compared with the case against the courts of Mass.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/1/77 BY 9702

The Nation

Massachusetts. Mr. Thompson did not exaggerate when he said:

Do you think that that part of the evidence which tells of the relations between the federal officials in Boston and the prosecution is of such a character that the honor of the Commonwealth can be supported if there is no new trial in this case? . . .

Think what is going to be said about it: The man who does not believe in private property in America is going to be killed whether he commits murder or not! These words are going to ring around the world.

growing independence  
plainly mark out for

THE ROUT OF THE KLAN in Colorado surprised its most sanguine enemies. Senator Rice W. Means, supported by his fellow-Senator, L. C. Phipps, chairman of the Republican National Senatorial Committee, expected renomination; he lost by 16,000 votes. The Klan candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor was also badly defeated by former Governor O. H. Shoup; and the "radical millionaire," former Governor William E. Sweet, overwhelmed the candidate supported by the Klan and McAdoo forces for the Democratic nomination for Senator. Now, Colorado has been a fortress of the Klan; the Wizard's office was reckoned as important as the Governor's by those who sought official favors. Only in Indiana did its rule seem firmer. And Colorado has turned against it. This is good news, and it disturbs the regulars in both old parties. But Mr. Means's victor, Charles W. Waterman, has not, as counsel of President Coolidge's Oil Conservation Board, shown insurgent tendencies. Colorado is another evidence of the vigor of local revolts. The State was tired of Klan domination; but those who read a national meaning into the returns fool themselves. The only other primary surprises of last week were the signs of returning Dry strength in the East. Several New York Republican constituencies defeated Wadsworth Wet; and although John Phillips Hill, Maryland's historic Wet, swept Baltimore, the rural districts assured the renomination of Senator Weller, who is relatively Dry.

CANADA'S ELECTION swung the political pendulum toward the Liberals. The last two elections had been indecisive; even with Progressive support Mackenzie King's majority in the last Parliament was unstable, and when Governor Byng refused an election and called in the Conservative leader, Mr. Meighen could win a majority only against King but not for his own policies. In the new House the Liberals will have 119 seats, the Conservatives 91, the much-divided Progressives 19; Labor holds 3 seats, and the Alberta United Farmers their 11. This, then, marks a loss of 25 seats for the Conservatives, chiefly in Western Ontario. The Conservatives won only one prairie seat. But the phalanx of French-Canadian Liberals from Quebec are of very different stuff from the American-minded Liberals of the West. Quebec Liberals are protectionist; the Western farmers are as suspicious of tariffs as their American colleagues south of the frontier. The customs scandals which forced Mr. King's resignation in June faded during the campaign, as the oil scandals faded in our own Presidential campaign, largely because the Liberals were able to find umbrages on the Conservative scutcheon to match their own stains. The constitutional issue played a larger role; the Liberals attacked the Governor General's intervention in domestic politics (see Mr. de Briay's article in *The Nation* for September 8) and the Conservatives retorted by accusing the Liberals of being annexationists in disguise. The Liberal gains indicate that Canada will continue along the path of

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✓ #127  
Mr. C. S.

October 2, 1926. 61-126

Mr. J. A. Dowd,

P. O. Box 230,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication of October 1st transmitting a query of the Sacco-Vanzetti file.

I am considerably concerned to note that certain papers and documents have been taken from this file. It is my desire that any papers or documents of any kind which may have been taken from the Sacco-Vanzetti file be returned thereto forthwith. So far as I am concerned, there has been no action taken by this Bureau under my cognizance, jurisdiction, or direction, which need in any way be hidden from full and complete scrutiny.

Very truly yours,

Director.

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DATE 4/29/62 BY SP-8/SHK

RECEIVED  
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INVESTIGATION  
OCT 5 1926  
U. S. DEPT. OF  
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 20 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation

Box 239, Boston, Mass.

October 25, 1926.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF Julia  
DATE 11/2/1926

Dear Sir:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Attached hereto you will find certain sheets of the Boston Sunday Globe and the Boston Sunday Post for October 24th, 1926 in which you will note that a new trial is denied SACCO and VANZETTI by Judge Webster Thayer of the Massachusetts Superior Court, before whom motions were made for a new trial for SACCO and VANZETTI by William Thompson, attorney at law, of Boston, Mass.

You will find full comment as made by Judge Webster Thayer and I am pleased to say that he gives it as his opinion that no conspiracy existed between the Attorney General of the United States and their subordinates and the State's Attorney for Norfolk County and his subordinates, for the purpose of bringing about the conviction of SACCO and VANZETTI on a murder charge.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*

JOHN A. DOWD  
Special Agent in Charge.

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

JAD:MFD

RECORDED

OCT 27 1926

61-126-720	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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61-126-721 was provided to you with our  
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1. All the above information was furnished to the Bureau by the FBI, New York, on 10/10/54. The Bureau has no further information on this matter.

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## HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Morelli, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his line of argument, Thompson said for Norah Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, accused thirty-six years ago of the murder of a Sacco-Vanzetti attorney, Thompson asserted that Morelli was a member of the Sacco-Vanzetti gang. Morelli was given his parole by the Federal Board of Prisoners at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1935. Thompson said Morelli was at the time of the Sacco-Vanzetti trial.

## HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Morelli, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his long argument for a new trial for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted nearly six years ago of the murder of a police officer, Thompson today asserted the value of Morelli as a witness. He said Morelli was given parole by the United States government at its discretion, and that the government was aware of his importance in the present proceedings.

### THE MADHROS LIES

As the author looks at others to get the inside story of the Islamic world, he also looks at his own country, the United States, and finds it to be a very different place than he had imagined.

THE MADHROS LIES  
by KENNETH SURIN  
New York: Basic Books, 1992.  
\$19.95, 288 pp., ISBN 0-465-07500-0.

### THE MADHROS LIES

As the author looks at others to get the inside story of the Islamic world, he also looks at his own country, the United States, and finds it to be a very different place than he had imagined.

THE MADHROS LIES  
by KENNETH SURIN  
New York: Basic Books, 1992.  
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# CHARGES SLEUTHS ARE READY TO 'SWEAR AWAY LIVES' OF DEFENDANTS

hurling a charge that Federal United States Department of Justice agents were willing to swear away the lives of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, whom they knew to be innocent, in order to satisfy a chief who wanted to be President of the United States, Attorney William G. Thompson today launched a spectacular closing argument in his fight for a new trial for the two convicted murderers.

Mr. Thompson, who is fighting for the lives of the two men, said that the government had no evidence against them and that the only reason for their conviction was the desire of the government to satisfy the wishes of the President-elect, Mr. Warren G. Harding. He said that the government had no evidence against them and that the only reason for their conviction was the desire of the government to satisfy the wishes of the President-elect, Mr. Warren G. Harding.

The government has no evidence against them and the only reason for their conviction is the desire of the government to satisfy the wishes of the President-elect, Mr. Warren G. Harding.

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## OFFER 61 AFFIDAVITS IN BATTLE TO SAVE SACCO AND VANZETTI

Demand that the files of the United States Department of Justice be laid bare to show the activities of the Federal government in connection with the conviction of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for the South Braintree murder, was made on Attorney General Sargent today by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the two men.

This demand was made as a result of disclosures made in affidavits by former Department of Justice chiefs in Boston and read at the hearing on a new trial motion for Sacco and Vanzetti in Superior Court at Dedham today.

The former Federal agents, who cooperated with Norfolk County authorities in building the case against the pair six years ago, declared in their statements that they and their fellow United States investigators believed Sacco and Vanzetti innocent.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

# SACCO MOVE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT

## U. S. Agents' Stories Warrant New Trial, Defense Insists

Asst. U. S. Atty. General D. P. Barney concluded his remarks today at noon after making three hours. Atty. William H. Keith said in a short rebuttal argument of 10 or 15 minutes. He declared that the uncontradicted affidavits of Weyand and Leatherman, U. S. agents, were in and of themselves sufficient to warrant a new trial.

The defense attorney insisted that it would be better if Sacco and Vanzetti, even though guilty, were allowed to have their freedom than to have the spectacle remain of a government executing and suppressing evidence tending to show the innocence of these two men.

He continually returned to what he termed "the relation between the Federal department of justice and U. S. Atty. Keitzmann" claiming the evidence in the affidavits of Weyand and Leatherman was not contradicted in any way. He said:

"Justice hearing on this matter has been concerned by the United States government."

### BECOMES TYRANNY

In his rebuttal reference to the Vanzetti and Sacco affidavits, Atty. Thompson said:

"The way in which the government which values the lives of these men more than the lives of these men, and even if it is a matter of a few years, would be suggestive that Weyand and Leatherman have done nothing wrong. That is a very serious matter. The case of Sacco and Vanzetti was in the hands of the government, and the government has been concerned by the United States government."

Boston, Mass., Traveler

Sept 17, 1936

Sept 17, 1936  
 The defense attorney insisted that it would be better if Sacco and Vanzetti, even though guilty, were allowed to have their freedom than to have the spectacle remain of a government asserting and suppressing evidence tending to show the innocence of those two men.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Dudley F. Banney concluded his arguments today at noon after talking three hours. Atty. William G. Thompson made a short rebuttal argument of 10 or 15 minutes. He declared that the uncontradicted affidavit of Weyand and Leatherman, former United States agents, were in and of themselves sufficient to warrant a new trial.

He occasionally returned to what he termed "cooperation between the federal department of justice and Dist. Atty. Nathan," claiming the evidence in the affidavit of Weyand and Leatherman was not contradicted in any way.

"Evidence bearing on this matter has been concealed by the United States government."

## BECOMES TYRANNY

In his rebuttal, referring to the Weyand and Leatherman affidavits, Atty. Thompson declared:

"I say to you that a government which values its people more than the lives of two men has become a tyranny. It is not a democracy. I make no suggestion that Weyand and Leatherman have been wrong or that they have called attention to a condition which we have already known exists. But now we find that the condition which we have known exists is being suppressed."

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 DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-800

## Used as Tool by U.S. Officials, Sacco Counsel Declares

Judge Webster Thayer, who for five years sat on a court bench while legal battles between attorneys for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti and district attorneys of Norfolk county went on, was said "as a tool of the federal officials," according to Atty. William G. Thompson, senior defense counsel, who opened his arguments for a new trial for the convicted men in Dedham court today.

### IMPOSED UPON

Atty. Thompson said there was no question but that the court was grossly imposed upon by former Dist. Atty. Frederick Katzman. The individual, Thompson said, during his year in a bargain with United States officials when he examined Sacco on radicalism, "an agreement was in order to get evidence against Sacco and his radical associates," and Thompson questioned whether had the court known the circumstances "he would have permitted him to be a tool of the federal officials."

Atty. Thompson in his preliminary speech to the court before he began his arguments, promised that he would attack former Dist. Atty. Katzman, who prepared and prosecuted the case against Sacco and Vanzetti. He referred to the activities of the United States department of justice agents who co-operated with Katzman.

During his argument, Atty. Thompson asked, "Who is the worse murderer, the man who shoots and takes the consequences and does not try to throw them on another, or the man who draws a day from his government and tries to convict men of murder whom he knows to be innocent in order to satisfy his own ambition to be nominated President of the United States and make some money. One is evil. The other is dangerous."

To whom Thompson referred in this paragraph was not brought out. The "chief" mentioned, however, is thought to be a former attorney-general of the United States.

Atty. Thompson referred to the Way and Leahy murder cases in one of which was contained the statement that it would be a good thing to get Sacco and Vanzetti out of the way.

Thompson said that the steering papers contained information in the effect that 12146 Yearick-official papers now sitting in the court. One of the Sacco-Vanzetti cases to the court. He said it is too late for these officials to come forward with explanations and excuses for not having their papers when he made the request of them to do so to the United States attorney-general.

### TOO LATE FOR FILES

Thompson said that the steering papers contained information in the effect that 12146 Yearick-official papers now sitting in the court. One of the Sacco-Vanzetti cases to the court. He said it is too late for these officials to come forward with explanations and excuses for not having their papers when he made the request of them to do so to the United States attorney-general.

Throughout his argument Atty. Thompson kept referring to the federal secret service men who prepared the case, naming them as West, Wages, Shaughnessy and one other, and he said that these men had been employed by the government for Sacco's extradition to make up a confession and he said, "I am not sorry for them, except West and Wages and Shaughnessy and some other."

### WORSE MURDERER

"Who is the worse murderer, the man who shoots and takes the consequences and does not try to throw them on anyone else, or the man who draws eight dollars a day from his government and tries to convict men of murder whom he knows to be innocent in order to satisfy his own ambition to be nominated President of the United States and make some money on the side? One is evil. The other is dangerous."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/92 BY SP-9875/JAC



CLIPPINGS

Boston, Mass., American  
Sept. 26, 1926

## HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Morrell, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his long argument for a new trial for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, sentenced thirty six years ago to the guillotine as a South Braintree haystacker, Thompson described the guilt in the Morrell gang and declared that Joe Morrell was given his freedom from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., after serving half of a 12-year sentence.

Continued on Page 1, Column 1.

(SEE REVERSE SIDE- Top )

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/21/72 BY SP-ROB/jmc

Boston, Mass., American  
Sept. 15, 1926

Handing a charge that former United States Department of Justice agents were "going to Great Asia" and "were of Jewish blood" and "Baroness" Van Kester, whom they knew as an agent, he ordered to arrest a man who was waiting to be President of the United States. Attorney General Cummings then ordered a search for the man, who was found in the United States. Cummings then ordered a search for the man, who was found in the United States. Cummings then ordered a search for the man, who was found in the United States.

pleaded to exonerate Hooch and Smith by confessing himself to participation in the holdup and offering of a South Brainerd paymaster.

[illegible][illegible]

This court was imposed upon, Your Honor, by former District Attorney Katmann," he shouted. Over the objections of defense lawyers, in cross-examination of Sacco, Katmann told Your Honor he wanted the cross-examination to go on to show that the defendants had admitted landmines.

"This was not his real reason, your Honor, as you know. He was getting into the Air Force these radi-  
cals, the likes of Sacco and Vanzetti  
and the likes of the man who whom  
we had captured, the Federal

... Assistant  
... read a  
... said  
... my, Kath-  
... Federal  
... Grand  
... to  
... other  
... or  
... could be

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

DATE 6/24/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mw

CLIPPINGS

Boston, Mass., American

Sept. 13, 1926.

## OFFER 61 AFFIDAVITS IN BATTLE TO SAVE SACCO AND VANZETTI

Demand that the files of the United States Department of Justice be laid bare to show the activities of the Federal government in connection with the conviction of **NICOLAI SACCO** and **BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI** for the South Braintree murder, was made on Attorney General Cargill Wherry by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the two men.

This demand was made as a result of disclosures made by affidavits by former Department of Justice agents in Boston and read at the hearing on a new trial motion for Sacco and Vanzetti in Superior Court at Dedham today.

The former Federal agents who co-operated with Norfolk County authorities in building the case against the pair six years ago, declared in their statements that they and their fellow United States investigators believed Sacco and Vanzetti innocent.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/21/02 BY SP-07/10

Boston, Mass. Ameri-  
can-Sept. 17, 1926

Response of Asst. Dis  
trict Atty. Ranney of  
Plymouth County

WOULD GIVE UP CASE

He said Weyand and Leatherman stated they were unable to gather any evidence that would warrant deportation or proceedings for radicalism. He said these men also state that after the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti they were in communication with Dist. Atty. Frederick Katzman, and that they were present during the trial and gave what information they had to the district attorney, who also gave them what information he had obtained. He said:

**WHAT WAS ILLEGAL?**

"These defendants would have you believe that there was a conspiracy between the United States government and the state to convict these two gentlemen of murder in an easy way of getting rid of them. What was illegal about it? Was it the participation between the state and the Federal government?"

"Mr. Thompson could offer proof that these two agents had gotten into communication that has fabricated the entire case and procured hired perjurers; that these whole proceedings were false; we would just say a regular conspiracy stop at that point. You know how to stop it. You can get one or two more witnesses and send them ourselves. Where is the proof of such conspiracy? We

The next took up Atty. Thompson's statement concerning Katsman, who

When the court adjourned at 12:30 p. m., the press thinking was about the ridiculous manner in which the questions have been decided. Mayor of the Commonwealth by the Supreme Judicial Court has been asked to consider the matter.

It is not told of the fact that the conduct of Kaituma and Williams for nearly seven weeks, and you tried that you were not considered on their part that was not consistent with the highest standard of professional conduct. Was there anything dishonorable in Mr. Kaituma's "old information" from the Department of Justice? It is very hard to see how the court could have done it.

Ramsey came to the defense of U. S. Atty. Gen. Sargent. After describing the letter Atty. Thompson wrote Atty. Gen. Sargent, Ramsey said he had found that very often the hearing of letters and communications was not always sent. He referred to the letter from Thompson to Sargent in which the defense attorney asked that the files of the department of justice be opened to him.

"It was 'plain' strange," he said, "the officer came to Mr. West in Boston to answer. The attorney-general asked the local agent to find out what Atty. Thompson wanted. Mr. West called up Mr. Thompson and asked him what he wanted, to which Mr. Thompson answered, 'I want everything.' Mr. Thompson was told that they (meaning the local department of justice office) could not go beyond their instructions. These officials did all they could. Mr. Thompson himself cut off that avenue of information."

The prosecutor defended the keeping of secret files, saying that the government officials had to keep secret files just as he himself would refuse to give information contained in the secret files to the Norfolk County prosecutor's office.

Manney referred to a conversation he had with Atty. Thompson, in which, he said, he (Manney) offered to go with Atty. Thompson to Washington, and that Atty. Thompson had said that "bigger men than he had tried to secure information from the United States Government and had been refused."

Atty. Thompson—Your honor, there was no affidavit; is that correct, submit-

Atty. Ranney--Do you deny it?  
Atty. Thompson--Your honor, I must object to statements by counsel which are not born out by affidavits now before the court. I object to Mr. Ranney making statements not based on affidavits and asking me if I deny them. It so happens that that statement is true, but I must object to counsel making statements which are not contained in the evidence.

Judge Thayer—This case will be decided on the reports, and not by the statements of counsel. There are no questions in both arguments not based on evidence.

**EVIDENCE ONLY**  
 Atty. Thompson—what it would take  
 ens making any alteration not based  
 evidence. (b)(7)(C)  
 Atty. General—what it would take

[illegible]

**CALLS MORELLI DOWNS**  
He asserted there was no

...the British Government and the State  
...damage evidence at the time of  
...trial

Joe MORAN, one of the "Prohibition" gang, now accused in the Garrettsville murder by the federal grand jury, was described by assistant district attorney as a hard who could not have committed "the most brutal, wicked and

Morelli, he said, has made a statement describing his movements on the day of the crime and his going to government records at that time carrying a very heavy trunk from the police freight in and around Springfield.

"THE CHAIRMAN HAS THREE MORE

[illegible]

"Concede that there was an issue standing concerning the evidence, is it an illegal act? Now, if Attorney Thompson proved that these arms of the law got together and fabricated evidence and produced convictions at Saigon and Vientiane, that would be a very different matter, and we would go to court and try him. Stop these

"But there was no conspiracy." The change of allegiance is a courtesy. Massachusetts extends to all states and to the United States government. The defense would not have you believe that Mr. Kallman is falsefulness to your honor in a trial, but that is not he, and your honor has obviously made a finding of fact that the handling of the case was simply honorable.

[illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/92 BY SP-8 BJC/mc

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

October 21, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I am attaching hereto, for your general information, a communication received from Special Agent in Charge Dowd, dated October 1, 1926, which has reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Respectfully,

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director.

Encl.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP8BJS/h

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239, Boston, Mass.

November 1, 1926.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO & VANZETTI

Dear Sir:

Adverting to all past correspondence exchanged between us and referring in particular to your letter of October 6th, 1926 in which you write that you are in receipt of a communication from me, under date of October 1st, in which I transmitted a summary of the SACCO-VANZETTI file and in relation to it you make known that you are considerably concerned to note that certain papers and documents have been taken from this file and in which you expressed it as your desire that any papers or documents of any kind which may have been taken from the SACCO-VANZETTI file should be returned thereto forthwith, let me say that not any documents, papers, etc., taken from the SACCO-VANZETTI file as carried in this office were ever taken in the sense of a permanent removal and were replaced in the file immediately after having served their purpose and are at present in the file occupying the position which they occupied prior to their removal.

Consideration of past correspondence exchanged between us clearly indicates that it was necessary to remove certain papers from the SACCO-VANZETTI file for the purpose of study and examination in order that the summary of the file, which you desired, should be prepared and at no time were they taken from the file with the intention of separating them from the file or for the purpose of being lodged elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*

JOHN A. DOWD

Special Agent in Charge.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-10/PC

JAD:MFD

NOV 8 1926

61-126-722	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 2 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

# Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239

Boston, Mass.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF deputy  
DATE 11/11/26

November, 8, 1926.

RECORDED

NOV 11 1926

~~PERSONAL~~ and  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

Re: Sacco-Vanzetti Matter

In confirmation of my telephone conversation with Mr. Harold Nathan this morning concerning the above entitled matter I wish to say that Harold Williams, U.S. Attorney at Boston, Mass., called me into conference this morning where I met Jay E. Benton, Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts.

During this conference it was made known that Hon. Alvin T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts departed from New York City for Paris, France on Nov. 6, 1926. At the time of his departure he was met by a delegation of persons representing forty foreign papers who petitioned him to remove Webster Thayer, Judge of the Superior Court of Massachusetts because of his refusal to grant the motion for a new trial sought by counsel for these men recently claiming an abuse of judicial discretion etc. It also appears that Governor Fuller does not have the protection of any body guard at any time and on his trip to France he is without any form of personal protection.

Fearing that demonstrations make take place in France against the Governor, Mr. Benton, the Attorney General, called upon Mr. Williams to learn if protection could not be secured for Governor Fuller through the Government of the United States. Mr. Williams put the question to me whereupon I made known to him that if protection was afforded the Governor it would no doubt be furnished by the Department of State at Washington but Mr. Williams asked me if I would telephone to you feeling that our Bureau and the Attorney General of the United States were the proper conduits through which the request of the Attorney General of Massachusetts should be made.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-807/MS  
ON 6/29/82

61-126-723	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 30 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DE. V.	FILE

*Ref. 11/11/26*  
*for 11/11/26*

Accordingly I telephoned for you and in your absence spoke with Mr.Nathan explaining to him what took place at the conference as well as the desire of Mr.Williams that I take the matter up with you.I suggested that Mr.Nathan telephone the results of any action at Washington to Mr.Williams.

I am writing you at once so that you will know how the matter arose and the interest which the Attorney General for Massachusetts has in the matter.Mr.Benton asked that this matter be treated as confidential.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A.DOWD

Special Agent in Charge.



✓  
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF 61-126-723  
DATE 5/12/82

61-126-723  
EX-643

PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

NOV 11 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-126  
November 9, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Dowd,

P. O. Box 220,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of November 8th expressing the desire of United States Attorney Williams and Mr. Jay R. Benton, Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts, that the State Department be advised of possible demonstrations in Paris or elsewhere against the Honorable Alvin F. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts.

In reply I beg to state that steps were taken to immediately communicate the information in question to the proper officials of the State Department. I am now advised by the State Department that the McLusky at Paris has been notified of the possibilities involved in order that steps might be taken to afford proper protection to the Governor of Massachusetts by the French police authorities.

I might suggest that it would be well for the State of Massachusetts authorities to communicate to the State Department the full and detailed itinerary of the Governor of Massachusetts while in Europe in order that such further steps for his protection might be taken as may be deemed necessary or advisable.

Very truly yours,

Director.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 10 1926 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE



DECLASSIFIED BY SP-9ATS/mc  
ON 1/29/82

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF delia  
DATE 7/12/80

✓  
NW:GAS

~~Personal and~~  
~~Confidential~~

November 9, 1926.

NOV 11 1926

61-126-723

RECORDED

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,

Department of State,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kirk:

Confirming telephonic conversations relative to the matter of possible protection to be afforded Governor Alvin T. Fuller, of Massachusetts, on his trip to the Continent, I am transmitting attached hereto a communication received from the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Boston office, which I believe is self-explanatory.

It is my desire, of course, to keep you fully informed as to any developments which may arise in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 88917.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 BTJ/mc  
ON 6/29/92



12

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239  
Boston Mass.

November, 9, 1926.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

61-126

Re: Sacco- Vanzetti Matter

Referring to telephone conversation of this morning which Mr. Harold Nathan had with me permit me to say I have made known to the Honorable Jay R. Benton, Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that the Department of State has taken up with the American Ambassador at Paris, France the question of affording refuge to Alvan T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts during the period of his stay in France. I have imparted this information, as well, to Hon. Harold Williams, U.S. Attorney at Boston, Mass.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*  
John A. Dowd.

Special Agent in Charge.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-5 JML

NOV 12 1926

RECORDED

61-126-724

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
NOV 11 1926 A.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EX-100 TWO

FILE

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,  
Boston, Mass.

Nov. 11, 1926.

Personal  
and  
Confidential.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) *deleg*  
DATE *5/12/80*

61-126

Dear Sir:

Attention No.1.

Adverting to all past correspondence between us concerning the desire of Hon. Harold P. Williams, U. S. Attorney, Boston, Mass, and Hon. Jay R. Benton, Attorney-General for the State of Massachusetts, that the welfare of Hon. Alvan T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts, while in France, be looked after, and referring particularly to your letter of November 9th, 1926, in which you suggest that it would be well for the State of Massachusetts authorities to communicate to the State Department the full and detailed itinerary of the Governor of Massachusetts while in Europe - I wish to state that this suggestion was conveyed to Hon. Jay R. Benton, who stated that Governor Fuller intended to remain in Paris for approximately ten days or two weeks, and did not intend to proceed elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE BY~~

JAD/d.

NOV 15 1926

RECORDED

*John A. Dowd*  
JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP-807/ang*  
ON *6/23/82*

61-126-725	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 12 1926 P.M.	
DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1926.

61-126

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you herewith for your information  
copies of two despatches from the American Legation  
at Oslo, dated November 1st and 3rd, concerning the  
proposed boycott of American goods on the part of  
the Oslo Red Aid, in connection with the Sacco and  
Vanzetti case.

Very truly yours,

A. R. H.

over

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.  
311.65218al/341  
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RECORDED & INDEXED

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J.E.H.  
MAB  
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DEC 10 1926

61-126-729	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC 2 1926	
FILED	NEW YORK

No. 894.

Oslo, November 3, 1926.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch No. 891 of November 3, 1926, regarding the Norwegian communists' attitude toward the Sacco and Vanzetti case, I have the honor to transmit a resolution from the International Red Aid in this matter.

While it has <sup>not</sup> been thought necessary to forward the petitions, threats, and resolutions addressed to this Legation by communists from time to time, it is believed that the threat

of

of boycott, made for the first time in the following resolution, may be of interest to the Department:

Translation

"To the American Legation: Oslo, November 1, 1926.

"The Oslo Red Aid (of the ~~international~~ Red aid) referring to its earlier protest, expresses its strongest denunciation of the outrageous treatment accorded Sacco and Vanzetti by the Government of the United States. Sacco and Vanzetti have convinced the whole civilized world of their innocence since their defenders submitted the explanation of the murderer Maduros, who confesses to have committed the murder for which Sacco and Vanzetti have been sentenced. We have no sympathy for the murderer Maduros, but we must protest against his execution before the Sacco and Vanzetti case has been absolutely cleared up. Here in Norway we are convinced that the two Italian workers are innocent, and therefore we beg you to convey to your government our protest without abridgment. You are also requested to state that the Red Aid will to the best of its ability cause the boycott of American goods in case the murder of these two workers really takes place.

For the Oslo Red Aid.

(Signed) Even ~~X~~sen.

President pro tempore."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurits S. Swenson.

No. 891.

Oslo, November 1, 1926.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular telegrams of September 8, 2 P. M., and October 24, 10 A. M., 1926, with regard to the Sacco and Vanzetti case, I have the honor to report that the Norwegian secret service has been informally advised of the course of the trial and requested to keep any dangerous characters under surveillance. No other steps have been deemed necessary at the present time and no violence



violence is expected. In this connection the following editorial appeared in NORGES KOMMUNISTBLAD on the twenty-ninth instant:

Translation.

"The promise of the International Red Aid to afford assistance to the Italian Comrades, Sacco and Vanzetti, must be answered by the Norwegian workers with a quickly organized movement of protest against the death penalty which, in the course of a few days, will be imposed on the two workers. As is known, the courts in America have refused to re-open the case against these two, who, since 1920 have sat in prison and since 1921 have had a death sentence hanging over them for a robbery murder in which, as has been proved by countless documents and witnesses, the Italian anarchists never took part.

"The real reason for the imprisonment of Sacco and Vanzetti is that they are such dauntless spokesmen for the working classes' case. They are dangerous to bourgeois society, therefore they were imprisoned, therefore their lives shall be snuffed out in the electric chair.

"The world proletariat's vigorous movement of protest has hitherto kept the executioner from using the "chair" on the two comrades, but now it looks as if this outrageous sentence will be carried out after all.

"But these two devoted fighters in the class struggle can still be saved. The international proletariat can save them. And you can be sure that Sacco and Vanzetti expect and hope to be rescued. They have absolute confidence in the laboring classes' solidarity. 'And it can give us back freedom and life', wrote Vanzetti.

"Will the comrades be disappointed in their hope? No, never. We feel certain that the international proletariat together with the best part of the bourgeois intelligentsia will march forth one of these days to save Sacco and Vanzetti from the electric chair.

"We must also participate here in Norway. Everywhere in the workshop, in the Union, in the party meeting and mass gatherings; everywhere we must act in action a great movement of protest against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Draft protest resolutions and let them pour into the American Legation. The Norwegian workers never before lagged in their duty to class solidarity, and now over they will not now.

"In the American prison the workers are sitting and waiting. Are we going to die in the electric chair or will our brothers throughout the world fetch us back to the struggle outside? Let us join the comrades in every land and cry to them 'Sacco and Vanzetti! You shall not die! We will save you from the electric chair.'

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurits S. Swenson.

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

25 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review, ~~and direct response to you.~~

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-126- 726, 727, 728, [REDACTED], 730, 731, 732, [REDACTED]

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# 75

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1926.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1AG/90  
ON 4/26/90  
per STATE DE. dtd. 2/22/90  
(293,569)

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you herewith for your information  
a copy of despatch No. 54 dated November 21, which  
has been received from the American Legation at  
Copenhagen regarding a public meeting relating  
to the Sacco and Vanzetti case.

Very truly yours,

*G. H. R.*

61-126

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.  
311.6521Sal/362

*W*  
*W. H. G.*  
*W. H. G.*  
*W. H. G.*

JAN 3 1927

738  
61-126-972  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 29 1926  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Div. Two

Despatch No. 54

Copenhagen, November 21, 1926.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A. H. H. H. of  
the above orig-  
inal. 94

DECLASSIFIED BY SPIAG/jac  
ON 4/26/90  
per STATE Ltr. dtd. 2/22/90  
(293,569)

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 51 of the 19th instant,  
in which it was mentioned that a public meeting was to be  
held here on that date to protest against the conviction of  
the Italian communists Sacco and Vanzetti in the United States,  
I have the honor to report that the meeting took place, as  
previously announced, in a public hall known as the "Axel-  
berg", and that it was said to have been attended by some  
eight

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7443

eight hundred persons. The principal speaker at this meeting was Mrs. Karin Michaelis, the wife of one of Denmark's most noted authors and herself a writer and speaker of considerable local repute, who took as the title of her address "American Judicial Murders." Another speaker was Mr. Ludvig Korst, who spoke on the subject of Fascist terrorism in Italy.

All the principal local newspapers published accounts of the meeting on the following day, of which the fullest appeared in the FOLKETINGEN (Radical Liberal) under the title "The Protest Meeting Against 'Free America'". Shorter accounts appeared in the BERLINGSCHE TILBLÆND (Conservative), the BERLINGSCHE TILBLÆND (Conservative) and the SOCIAL DEMOKRATEN (Social Democrat), the article in the last-mentioned being entitled "The Giant Protest Meeting Against Fascist Terrorism and American Corruption." It is interesting to note that the BERLINGSCHE TILBLÆND expressed its belief that the large attendance at the meeting was due less to interest in the subject of Mrs. Michaelis's address than to the public desire to hear her speak. A translation of an extract from Mrs. Michaelis's address, as published in the FOLKETINGEN of November 19th, is enclosed herewith, which will serve to show the tenor of her remarks as well as her apparent ignorance, or disregard, of the facts in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. According to newspaper reports, however, her specious appeal was greeted with much applause and a resolution was forthwith unanimously adopted which it was proposed to deliver by a deputation to the Legation.

On the morning of the 19th, an inquiry, apparently on the part of the Danish Society, was made by telephone to

the

the Legation as to when the American Minister could be seen, to which the Clerk of the Legation replied that the Minister was absent. Later in the day an individual representing the Society called and delivered to the Clerk of the Legation a copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting on the previous evening. A translation of the resolution, which was addressed to the Legation and signed by a physician named Lembuch on behalf of the Society, is enclosed herewith. It will be observed that the resolution, after mentioning that it had been adopted at the meeting held under the auspices of the CLINTI Society, protests not only against the judgment in the Sacco-Vanzetti case but against that in the case of Mooney and Billings, as well as against the treatment of "the scores of other innocent victims of corruption in the judicial system of the United States which these cases have disclosed." It states that until the Sacco-Vanzetti case is revised and Mooney and Billings are released, the Society will "not cease to stigmatize these judicial murders and to bring them to the knowledge of the Danish public in all their details," and concludes that "the attitude of the American Government in these matters will thus be decisive for our estimation of the United States as a country of liberty or as a country of legal corruption."

The Legation has not, of course, acknowledged the receipt of this communication, but I have again mentioned the matter to the Director of the Foreign Office, Count Leventlow, and have shown him the copy of the resolution delivered at the Legation. He is of the opinion that it is unlikely that the matter will cause any further public agitation here. This opinion is shared by Mr. Axel Gersfalk,

the

the local representative of the Associated Press of America, who tells me he has forwarded a short account of the meeting to the Press but that he does not believe that the Danish public can be induced to interest itself further in such a matter. The BERLINER ZEITUNG of the 20th instant contained a short editorial article ridiculing the resolution adopted at the CLARKE meeting. It pointed out that while the information furnished by Mrs. Michaelis was of a most superficial character, "the nine hundred members nevertheless proceeded to adopt a resolution in the effect that they would not cease to stigmatize the alleged judicial murder and disseminate 'all details', and that the subsequent attitude of the American Government would be decisive for their opinion of the United States." The article concludes with the following: "When the American Minister receives the resolution, it will not be ourselves only who say uch!..... the whole of America will tremble."

No further comments have appeared in the local press on this subject. I have been able to get very little information about the CLARKE Society, but Count Reventlow tells me that he understands that its branch in Denmark is rather in the nature of literary and debating society than of a political organization, and that its members here are probably rather socialistic than economic in their ideas, while there appears to be no reason to believe that the Legation will be exposed to any danger as a result of further agitation here in this connection, developments will be carefully watched, and, if of sufficient importance, reported to the Department.



I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,  
Yours obedient servant,

Charles DeLoach  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures:

1. Translation of extract of speech by Mrs. Michalakis at CLMGA's Meeting of November 10, 1956.
2. Translation of Resolution presented to the Legation on November 10, 1956.

File No. 610.8-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C. Paris.

4701

Extract from POLITICAL of Mr. Michaelis' speech

"I am not a Communist or Anarchist, nor a Conservative. Two months ago I wrote the preface to a book which is a protest against the Soviet's treatment of its political prisoners. At the same time I am a member of Kate Milne's Children's Hour. I am an independent and I shall remain an independent as long as I live; and I will have the right to say what I think.

"I have been in America several times, once for eighteen months. Conditions there are quite different from our own. The American press, for example, is entirely in the control of four or five gigantic magnates owned by a few millionaires who stick together like sisters and brothers in a happy family. When one of them is attacked they all rally to his aid. A young man who had worked for the Associated Press for ten years published a book against the large trusts and against the abuses of the millionaires, especially against Morgan; he called the book DOREAN. It was not noticed in a single paper throughout the United States; the publisher was compelled to withdraw it and the author was discharged from his position and could not procure a new position anywhere. That is press liberty in the United States.

"Nor is there any liberty of speech. If the Communists come to the United States and wish to lease a hall, such for example, as the large Hall of our Concert Palace (Koncert-palace), the reply is: 'It is very expensive.' Then they save up the money and apply again: 'Here you are, here is the money!'

March!

-6-

money! ' The police then say to the landlord, 'Don't let them have the hall.' He replies: 'Unfortunately, I have rented it to them! ' Then five minutes before the meeting the Fire Brigade arrives and declares the hall to be a fire-trap, a hall in which speeches are made every evening the year around. And the Fire Brigade of the United States stands above the Law."

Mrs. Michaelis then proceeded to relate various alleged "American court scandals." We begin with the broadcast up the case of the labor leaders Mooney and Billings, who were condemned to death in California, as follows:

"During the war a bomb was thrown at a parade in San Francisco. Mooney and Billings who had not been in town were arrested, indicted by false witnesses and found guilty by a bribed jury. Wilson sent a secret contribution to San Francisco who, without the knowledge of anyone, installed a diatograph in the judge's room and afterwards the judge was heard clearly say to his fellow conspirators: 'Guilty or not guilty, to hell with Mooney, we had to get rid of him.' Even Wilson did not accomplish more than to cause the death sentence to be reduced to life imprisonment.

"As regards the two Italians Sacco and Vanzetti, they had to be removed because they were in possession of disagreeable information regarding the notorious methods of torture of the police. They were, therefore, accused of being the perpetrators of a murder and robbery. Among the threatened and bribed witnesses was a woman who had witnessed the whole thing 'from around the corner' and a 14 year-old boy who had seen that the culprit was either an Italian, Russian, Greek, Mexican or Brazilian. Yet they were both

condemned

to death. It was of no avail that, while they sat in prison, a convicted murderer and robber confessed that he had slain this carrier on his conscience. All that has been achieved is a postponement of the death penalty. An enormous movement has now arisen in America both among Conservative and Socialistic workers. Also we must join them. A day for justice must be voiced all over the world!"

According to the press, Mrs. Michaelis was greeted with overwhelming applause.

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#154

DECLARATION

CLUB 32

Copenhagen, November 14, 1955.

To the Legation of the United States in Denmark

The Society CLUB 32 held a public meeting last evening at which the assembly adopted the following resolution. The adoption was unanimous:

More than 600 Danish subjects assembled at meeting in ALBORG, Thursday, November 10th, 1955, under the auspices of CLUB 32, Copenhagen, aware of the international protests against the notorious judgments against the Americans SISCO and VALBERTI, against ROSS and BLISSON and against the scores of other innocent victims of the corruption in the judicial system of the United States of America which these cases have disclosed. We declare that the employment of the notorious "third degree" as a method of trial places the United States outside the circle of civilized nations and request the American Government as soon as possible to abolish this remnant of the Middle Ages!

We declare that until the SISCO-VALBERTI case is taken up again, until the Government of California has released BLISSON and BLISSON, we shall not cease to stigmatize these judicial murders and to bring them to the knowledge of the Danish public in all details. The attitude of the American Government in these matters will thus be decisive for our

Declaration

#105

- 2 -

estimation of the United States as a country of liberty or  
as a country of legal corruption.

On behalf of CLARKE

(Signed) LEUMBEACH,

Physician,  
Stockholmsgade 39,  
Copenhagen.

He added that he himself admired much of her literary work, but that such intemperate statements as those referred to were evidence of an unbalanced mind and could, he was convinced, have little effect on the somewhat phlegmatic Danish public. With regard to the possibility of arousing any sympathy here for communistic movements, he stated that the recent election to the FOLKETING, in which the Communist Party received a decided set-back, was evidence of the fact that communism in Denmark was losing ground and was not, he believed, an element to be feared.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Gordon Padlock

Gordon Padlock,  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

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JAN 10 1927

January 8, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LUMMIS.

Special Agent West, of the Boston office, who was recently in Washington and conferred with you concerning the Caseo Vannetti case, has sent me the attached memorandum which he requested me to transmit to you. It gives the citation of a case which he wanted to have called to your attention.

Very truly yours,

61-126

Encl.

Director.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/11/82 BY SP-6/11/82

BUREAU FILES DIVISION  
MAILED  
JAN 6 1927  
P.M.  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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RECORDED

61-126-734

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 7 1927

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE





DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 15, 1927.

DECLASSIFIED BY SPIAG/ac  
ON 4/26/90  
for STATE ltr. dtd. 2/22/90  
(293,569)

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With reference to my letter of December 28th transmitting a report received from the American Legation at Copenhagen regarding the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti, I am sending you herewith for your information a copy of a further despatch on this matter which has been received from Copenhagen, dated December 9, 1926.

Very truly yours,

*A. R. L.*

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.  
311.6521Sal/367

JAN 22 1927

61-126  
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-126-735	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 17 1927 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

49  
Respatch No. 59

Copenhagen, December 9, 1943.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A true copy of  
the signed origi-  
nal.

GH

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 AG/SC  
ON 4/26/90  
per STATE Br. dir. 2/22/90  
(293,569)

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 54 of November 21st  
last, concerning the Laoco-Vanzetti case, with which was  
enclosed a translation of remarks made by Mrs. Maria  
Michaelis at a public meeting held in Copenhagen on November  
14th in connection with this case, I have the honor to report  
that I have since been informed by Mr. Marion Letcher,  
American Consul-General, that he has had discussion heretofore

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to call the Department's attention to this lady's evidently vindictive attitude towards the United States. Mr.atcher has shown me a copy of his confidential despatch No. 2230 of April 20, 1946, transmitting a translation of an article by Mrs. Maria Michaelis which had appeared in a local magazine, the "IL MESSAGGERO", in March last. It will be noted that the article in question, which is entitled "Law and Justice in Free America", is not only similar in tone but that certain passages are identical with remarks made by Mrs. Michaelis at the recent public meeting here.

I was not aware before that Mrs. Michaelis, as she is still known here, is actually the wife of Mr. Charles A. Mangelson, who was at one time in the American Diplomatic Service. Her former husband, Mr. Reginald Michaelis, is reputed to be one of our country's leading authors, and it is probable that Mrs. Michaelis, who is herself a writer of considerable local reputation, continues the use of her former name because of its association with her literary work.

At a recent meeting with Count Leventlov, Director of the Foreign Office, I took occasion to express my regret that the publication of articles and statements against the United States of such a malicious nature as those of Mrs. Michaelis should be possible. He said that he was thoroughly informed of her antecedents and had known Mr. Mangelson in London when the latter was attached to our Embassy there. He agreed with me that it is unfortunate that publicity should be given to such sensational and entirely false statements as those made by Mrs. Michaelis and that there would be no way to prove

RECEIVED  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFER TO  
RECORDS AND PAPERS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WJW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

January 26, 1927.

RECORDED

DATE 6/29/82 BY SP8BT/ma

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, AUG - 9  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

In re case of Commonwealth (Massachusetts)  
NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLEMEO VANZETTI.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 13 1927

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir,

In consonance with instructions of the undersigned, and in reply to memorandum from the Attorney-General, the following memorandum is respectfully submitted:

Sometime in December of 1919 a highway robbery was committed at Bridgewater, Massachusetts. On April 15, 1920, another highway robbery occurred at South Braintree, Massachusetts, a payroll of upwards of \$15,000 stolen, and two men murdered.

Early in May of 1920 the present defendants, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested and charged with the murder in the latter case and the defendant Vanzetti charged with the robbery in the former case.

In or about August of 1920 the defendant Vanzetti was convicted of the Bridgewater crime and sentenced to the Massachusetts State Prison.

In or about June of 1921 both defendants were placed on trial in the Superior Criminal Court of Norfolk County, at Dedham, Massachusetts, for the South Braintree murder and in July of that year found guilty. Since that time a number of motions for a new trial have been heard and denied by the court, the last one having been presented in September of 1926 and the case has already been before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, on exceptions, denied in May, 1926, and upon denial of the most recent motion for a new trial is to be argued before that court shortly.

Because of certain allegations made by counsel for the defendants and others interested in behalf of these men, it is desired to point out the following facts to refute charges

made that the Department of Justice, or its representatives, instigated unlawfully and assisted in the prosecution of the two defendants, all of which is alleged in the memorandum hereinbefore referred to:

1. The charge is made that "the prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti had its origin in the Department of Justice because of the radical tendencies it was alleged these men possessed."

In answer thereto permit the undersigned to state that the Department of Justice, or anyone of its representatives had absolutely nothing to do with the inception of charges against the defendants. The writer, who had charge or control of investigations made by the Boston office of the Bureau into radical activities, from November 1, 1919, down to sometime subsequent to the arrest, trial and conviction of these men, and at least felt fairly well acquainted with the situation in general in that district, never up to the time of the arrest of the defendants heard of or even knew that any two such persons existed, his first knowledge of the existence of such persons having been gained from newspaper notoriety attending the arrests.

Further, a careful search of the file indexes of the Boston office of the Bureau failed to show in those files any reference to either Sacco or Vanzetti up until sometime subsequent to their arrest, in fact, if the writer recalls correctly without reference to reports, the first mention of either name is sometime in August of 1920 when a request was received from Washington for a report upon the nationality of Vanzetti who had been already convicted and sentenced upon the Bridgewater charge.

By this it is not intended to make the bare statement that nowhere in the files of the Boston office appears the name of Sacco or Vanzetti, because during the war-time period, owing to stress of business, every name appearing in a report was not indexed, the indexing being confined merely to the subject of the investigation, and for that reason it is possible that in connection with some inquiry into radical activities the name of Sacco or Vanzetti may appear, but it can be stated with certainty that neither name appears in the indexes of the Boston office indicating that either was the exact subject of inquiry.

There was found amongst a lot of discarded papers in the Boston office, sometime after the arrest of the defendants, a card bearing either the name of Sacco or Vanzetti from which it was inferred that the person had been a subscriber to a radical publication, possibly the "Cronaca Sovversiva", an anarchist sheet published by one Luigi Galleani, an Italian anarchist, deported in 1919, but when or whence the card came there was

nothing thereon to indicate. If it came from the office of the Cronaca Sovversiva publication, it was probably one of the subscription list taken in a raid upon that plant by former Agent Feri F. Weiss, who had charge of such matters from 1917 to November 1, 1919. However, as stated, that card was found subsequent to the arrest of the defendants.

Again, permit the writer to point out that the prosecuting attorney in the case of the Commonwealth, Mr. Frederick Katzmann, then District Attorney for Norfolk County, Massachusetts, was not known to and was never met by the undersigned until November of 1920, although the arrests occurred the May previous and Vanzetti had been convicted of the Bridgewater charge in or about August of 1920 and was then serving a sentence at the State Prison.

2. The charge is made that "the Department of Justice aided in obtaining a conviction, although it should have had no connection with the trial if it was merely a trial of two murderers guilty of violating a state law."

An absolute denial of such charge is made. As pointed out in prior communications to the Bureau, that investigation of the case against the defendants was made by the Massachusetts State Detective force and by a local police chief, if the writer remembers correctly one Stewart by name, who averred in an affidavit presented to the Court that he never met the undersigned.

The State police organization is decidedly more qualified for investigation of murder cases than is the Federal bureau, that class of cases of violence being a goodly portion of their work, and the prosecuting attorney did not have to be informed of the so-called radical activities of the defendants prior to their arrest, had such been known to the Bureau, for the reason that those were brought into evidence entirely by counsel for the defence in order to combat a presumption of consciousness of guilt on the part of the defendants who had been found with loaded revolvers in their possession at the time of arrest and told falsehoods when questioned about their action.

There was absolutely no aid, either of a legal or investigational nature, afforded the county prosecuting officer in the case, no witnesses were procured by the Bureau for him, nor were any witnesses or prospective jurors interrogated by the Bureau for him, nor did the writer ever confer with the trial justice or even inquire of the prosecuting officer relative to the progress of the case.

As stated hereinbefore, the first time the writer ever met the county attorney was about November of 1920. After the conviction of Vanzetti in August of 1920 and prior to the trial of both defendants on the murder charge, a so-called de-

fence committee, then headed by two anarchists, was inaugurated at Boston and a world-wide propaganda started. Following the Wall Street Bomb explosion, on September 16, 1920, it was deemed advisable by the New York City office of the Bureau sometime in November or December of 1920 to place an informant in the Dedham jail, wherein Sacco was confined, in the hope that something might be learned from the committee or persons visiting him that would throw some light upon the commission of that crime.

The services of such informant were utilized by the Federal Government solely in connection with the Wall Street explosion and such service was not requested by the District Attorney for the Commonwealth. This was the occasion for the visit of the undersigned to his office and was the first time he ever met that officer. Within a week or so, because of the conduct of the informant, it became necessary to remove him.

The writer did not attend the trial of these defendants and never saw either defendant until October or November of 1921, when motions for a new trial were being heard, at which time he was sent to Dedham by orders of the then Agent in Charge of the Boston office, and even then had no conversation with the District Attorney.

It is true that representatives of the Bureau office attended the trial, as did officers of the New York City police force, and of the Massachusetts state force, but the Federal officers present were there merely to observe and obtain information relating to any alien anarchists who might have come into the district for the trial, because of the intense agitation being conducted abroad at that time.

The charge is also made that "the Department now has in its files evidence which would shed considerable light on the methods employed to obtain a conviction of these two men, some of which evidence has since been admitted to have been perjured."

There is absolutely nothing in the files of the Boston office of the Bureau of evidentiary value that would shed any light upon the guilt or innocence of the defendants. The major portion of the files relate to investigations concerning the Wall Street bomb explosion and alleged radical activities of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, and there is nothing therein showing "methods employed to obtain a conviction of these two men."

The vicious and unfounded allegation that some of the evidence has since been admitted to have been perjured should not remain to go unchallenged, for the reason that with all of the charges made in the case this is the first occasion when a charge of perjury or subornation of perjury has been made, and even the counsel for the defence, if the writer read correctly, with all of his criticism of alleged assistance given the District Attorney never made the charge that any of the evidence presented the court was tainted with perjury.

The undersigned desires to take the liberty of advertent to certain statements in the referred to memorandum which appear to be in error, in that the writer is not in possession of all of the facts or else did not properly analyze them:

The questioning of the defendants by the local police authorities at the time of their arrest, relative to their economic or political convictions, was a matter with which no representative of the Department of Justice had anything to do and was probably induced by the fact that they found in their possession literature of a so-called radical nature.

The writer speaks of evidence coming to light since the conviction, and in particular to affidavits filed by two former employes of the Department of Justice. Those affidavits it will be noted contain considerable opinion evidence, statements some of which are untrue, and they surely make no charge that perjured evidence was procured or even sought by any representative of the Department. Further, even though it be alleged that aid or assistance was given the State authorities in the case by representatives of this Bureau, which is not so, there could not be anything in the nature of a so-called "frame-up", in the ordinary acceptance of that term, without the introduction of perjured evidence, and such charge of a "frame-up" is merely the repetition of propaganda disseminated by the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, of Boston, which organization, it is reported, has already collected in the vicinity of \$300,000 for the defence of the defendants.

Again, the writer absolutely denies that any representative of the Department of Justice, or any other person so far as he is concerned, was sent to room at the home of Mrs. Sacco, nor was such a thing even contemplated. Further, the Director of the Bureau of Investigation, at Washington, was not in communication with the Boston office of the Bureau during the trial of these defendants.

For more detailed facts in connection with this case, the writer invites attention to the decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts returned May 12, 1926, in the case of Commonwealth v. Sacco, which may be found in 151 Northeastern Reporter 839.

Very truly yours,

*William West*  
Special Agent.



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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 289,  
Boston, Mass.

January 28, 1927.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attention: One.

In re: SACCO-VANZETTI CASE.

The case of Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI was argued before the full bench of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on January 27, 1927, by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the accused.

Attached hereto you will find a report as carried in the Boston Post, in its issue of January 28, 1927, which treats of Mr. Thompson's argument:

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*

JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD/c.

| Enclosure (Newspaper article)

66-126  
RECORDED

66-126-936	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 29 1927	
Dis. Div.	Rec.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/19/82 BY SP-102/fac

JAN 31 1927

Boston, Mass, Post  
Issue of Jan. 25-1927

[illegible]

**Caused Prejudices in Jury**

tion. "When the government says 'You shouldn't believe this or that,' it begins to bargain with the district attorney and the district attorney was delivering the goods. He was asked what he had to back up his statement and he said he had no back up."

The judge said that the jury was entitled to consider for the defendant's knowledge of the district attorney and to find that the jury was entitled to consider at the trial.

so excited he could not remember what statements were made by him? He was told that the jury was plainly indicated by the Supreme Judicial Court that the

about the justice system. I said in my more recent, "The words were put in my mouth. I said in reference to the close co-operation between the district attorney and the United States Department of Justice regarding the radical activities of the defendants that the Government had refused to disclose the evidence in its possession. I said that the legitimate inference from this was that DeLoach and Casper were innocent. I also said I believed the rule-

7-2  
"I did not say the Attorney-General, but the Judge seems to feel that some-  
body has been shown to be a magis-  
trate in this country," I said.

[illegible]

to the United States Constitution, and the corresponding passage in the Bill of Rights, it is clearly, "that an abuse of judicial discretion is not the province of law, either under the Constitution or the other laws of the United States." He pointed to an opinion of Justice Holmes of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of *Whitney v. California*, in which the justice said the phrase, "the disclosure of state secrets," was "not a fair trial," and that "the government is not bound to disclose state secrets."

Alleges Misstatements of Facts

Attorney Thompson then took up what he called misstatements of fact by the judge. "His decision contained a great many statements of facts which are untrue," he said. "The judge's statements are not only untrue, but they are also very misleading."

**GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the symptoms and the context in which they are occurring.

...and I am not only ... with each ... in this direction, but ... the predicted ... were not facts ... of his way to per- ... and I am not

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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 23,  
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

January 29, 1927.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI matter.

Attached hereto you will find an item taken from the Boston, Mass. "Post", issue of January 29, 1927, which treats of the argument of Dudley P. Radney, Assistant District Attorney for Norfolk County, Mass. before the full bench of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the above entitled matter.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Dowd*

JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:JED  
Enc.

*for  
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BJS/KC

RECORDED JUL 1 3 1927

61-126-737

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 31 1927 A. M.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Div. One  
Div. Two

19/RE

61-126

Mr. Lohring

4/20/27

AL

# MADEIROS DENOUNCED BY RANNEY

Says Judge Thayer  
Right in Refusing  
New Sacco Trial

DENIES ANY ABUSE OF  
JUDICIAL DISCRETION

Defends Katzmann  
From the Charge  
of Unfairness

Dudley P. Ranney, assistant district attorney for Norfolk county, vigorously defended the action of Judge Webster Thayer in refusing to grant a new trial to Sacco and Vanzetti on the so-called Madeiros contention, when he appeared before the Superior Judicial Court yesterday in the appeal proceedings.

He contended that Judge Thayer was not guilty of any abuse of judicial discretion, as charged by counsel for the defense, but was well within his rights in refusing to believe Madeiros, who is a self-confessed murderer and gunman. He claimed Judge Thayer was justified in refusing to accept the charges of unfairness made by counsel for the defense against District Attorney Katzmann, Attorney General Sargent and the District Attorney.

# Judge Thayer Upheld by Attorney Ranney

Continued From First Page

In order to find that Judge Thayer was guilty, said he, the Supreme court would have to find that no conscientious judge would have taken the view he did. The degree to which credence might be placed in statements of Madeiros and of witnesses supporting him, was a matter of the first importance, he stated, in deciding whether the defendants Sacco and Vanzetti were entitled to a new trial. It was the judge's duty to decide whether they were entitled to belief or not. Disbelief therefore could be by no means constitutive of judicial discretion as the statements were all matters of dispute.

Madeiros, the principal witness, he described as a self-confessed murderer, twice convicted, who was guilty of the highest degree of moral turpitude known to the law. "What could that man think of the tender penalties of perjury?" asked Mr. Ranney. "If I were a sworn affidavit and then later would certain things he said in the affidavit were falsehoods. Can Judge Thayer be blamed for failing to give credence to anything that man said?"

Refers to Morelli Gang

Regarding the possibility that the so-called Morelli gang perpetrated the murders and not Sacco and Vanzetti, Mr. Ranney pointed out that there was no evidence presented to Judge Thayer that the Morelli gang was ever in South Braintree, outside the statement of Madeiros. They were indicted for larceny of cases of shoes but the indictments specified that the larcenies were committed at Providence and not in South Braintree, where the murders occurred.

As to the charge made by counsel for the defense that the district attorney suppressed evidence, Mr. Ranney said that this was based on the fact that Mr. Katzmann refrained from calling two witnesses to testify after he had examined them. He maintained that this was not suppression of evidence or misconduct, because the district attorney had a right to pick on the stand only those witnesses whom he believed and to exclude others.

Regarding the suppression of evidence by Attorney-General Sargent, Mr. Ranney declared that the evidence which the defense sought in the secret files of the Department of Justice was never refused to counsel but that counsel failed to get it through lack of tact. "We do not say this against Mr. Thompson," said Mr. Ranney. "We have only admiration for his bearing."

The defense cannot complain if their own conduct prevented them from getting the information they sought in the government secret files.

No Evidence From Spies

In discussing the employment of spies to secure evidence against Sacco, Mr. Ranney said that it was simply co-operation between the district attorney and the Department of Justice and was justified by custom. An affidavit was secured, he said, so that no harm had been done to Sacco.

The most serious charge of all he declared was the charge that the district attorney secured the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti because they were anarchists and radicals and not because they were guilty of murder. This charge is based on the accusation that the district attorney failed to use evidence which, if used, would acquit the defendants, and that he conducted a circumstantial examination that was unfair. Mr. Ranney pointed out that the fifth witness for the defense had been called to the stand before any mention of radicalism at all was made. It was injected into the case, he stated, by the defense who knew that it would be tested in cross examination. If the effect was prejudicial to the defense he contended that the defense was to blame for bringing it in. They could not blame the government.

"If six witnesses had testified before any mention of radicalism was made in this case, how can they say that it was injected into the case as the result of a conspiracy between the district attorney and the Department of Justice to convict these men as radicals when they could not convict them as murderers?" asked Mr. Ranney. "The accusation of misconduct on the part of the district attorney has failed for lack of evidence. We are not concerned here with arguments not based on facts."

Thompson Scores Katzmann

Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for Sacco and Vanzetti, closed the arguments by calling the attention of the court to the fact that District Attorney Katzmann failed to make any reply to the charges against him. "Your honors have not forgotten," said he, "what you said when District Attorney Pelletier did not deny the charges brought against him. Here is a man accused of using his office to allow men to be convicted of murder when they are not guilty of murder. If you think that is legitimate co-operation on the part of the district attorney and the Department of Justice, to secure their acquittal, then we shall have our case because they could not send them out of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 6/29/02 BY SP-80/MLC

61-126-737

Boston Herald, Post

7-#11

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61-126

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
Boston, Mass.

February 7, 1927.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.      Attention No. 5.

Dear sir,

In compliance with request of Mr. Schilder, of the Bureau, to Special Agent W. J. West, of this office, during the recent visit of Mr. West to Washington, there is inclosed herewith for the completion of the Bureau's files one copy of the report of Mr. West for September 9, 1919, entitled: "Augustus Rossi, 304 Adams street, Newton, Mass., and 'Cronaca Sovversiva', Anarchist matter."

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*  
John A. Dowd,  
Special Agent in Charge.

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DATE 6/28/82 BY SP-8 BJA/hw

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JUL 13 1927

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 9 1927 A.M.	
Dis. Cont.	Dis. Free

W. B. O. M.

REPORT MADE BY: <u>William J. Kent.</u>	PLACE WHERE MADE: <u>Boston, Mass.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE: <u>Sept. 2, 1912.</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <u>Sept. 2, '12.</u>
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE (GIVEN OR NATURE OF BATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION): <u>In re: Augustine Rossi, 304 Adams St., Newton, Mass.; and "Cronaca Sovversiva"; (Anarchistic Matter)</u>			
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACE: <u>At West Newton, Mass.:</u>			

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DATE 6/9/82 BY SP-8 BTJ

Pursuant to instructions of Division Superintendent Keller, the writer on this date accompanied Special Agent Weiss to Police Headquarters, West Newton, Mass., where it was reported a large lot of anarchistic matter had been secured on this date by the Newton Police Department.

The above entitled matter is also being reported by Special Agent Weiss under this date and title of "Bomb Explosions at Boston, Washington, D. C., and Cleveland, Ohio."

Upon arrival at Police Headquarters, West Newton, Mass., Chief of Police Mitchell reported that his officers had this date received from a barn on the estate recently occupied by one Augusta Rossi, 304 Adams street, Newton, a grocery box full of typewritten cards which purported to be a subscription list of some Italian publication. It was the opinion of both Agents that these cards were the subscription list of the Italian anarchistic publication "Cronaca Sovversiva", formerly edited by Luigi Galleani, recently deported from this port by the U. S. Immigration Service as an anarchist. The home of Augusta Rossi in Newton has been understood to be a meeting place of Italian radicals. This estate was recently vacated by Rossi, and in remodeling the barn the cards were found concealed between the frames of the building.

The cards were brought to Bureau office by Agents and are being sorted by states, cities and towns, and when this is completed a list will be made and submitted to the Bureau and to the Bureau offices in the states in which any of the subscribers

450  
In re: James J. [redacted]

Sept. 2, '19

are located.

Agent left official station, Boston, Mass., via Boston & Albany R. R., at 4:50 P. M., and returned to official station via B. & A. R. R. at 7:30 P. M.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Director, State



Director

Reference Sacco Vanzetti case Massachusetts Supreme Court in consultation this week. Their decision this case may come down, not certain however.

Understand William E. Castle, Assistant Secretary State, formerly in charge Western European affairs desires advance information in this regard so that foreign consul and foreign Embassy can be given benefit.

advisable notify Castle. Special delivery letter follows. Respectfully suggest every precaution be taken prevent leak.

Class. & Ext. by SC-2011/mc  
Reason FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 5/1/92  
S/192

Rec'd. 2:50

[Redacted] c (B)

To Director 3:08

*John A. State*

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*Approved [Signature]*



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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
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CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDED

March 2, 1927.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF CLP  
DATE 4/2/27

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kirk:

The Bureau is in receipt of the following telegram from the Agent in Charge of its Boston office:

"Reference Paolo Vanzetti case Massachusetts Supreme Court in consultation this week. Their decision this case may come down not certain however. Understand William E. Castle, Assistant Secretary State, formerly in charge Western European affairs desires advance information in this regard so that foreign consul and foreign embassy can be given benefit. If advisable notify Castle. Special delivery letter follows. Respectfully suggest every precaution be taken prevent leak."

[REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

Director.

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 6/29/92  
4/2/02

CONFIDENTIAL

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61-126-745

March 3, 1927

MAR 4 1927

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring further to the SACCO  
VANERTZI case, I am transmitting  
attached hereto, copy of a letter  
relative thereto from the Bureau's  
office at Boston, Mass. dated Feb. 28th.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 20257.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-808/JAC



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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Box 259, Boston, Mass.

February 28, 1927.

MAR 4 1927

Hu  
Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO-VANZETTI CASE  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Sir:

J. R. Benton, formerly Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts, called at this office this morning stating that he, while in office, was conferred with by William R. Castle, in charge of Western European affairs for the American Department of State.

At that time it was Mr. Castle's desire to receive, in advance, possible information concerning the decision arrived at by the Supreme Court in the above entitled matter, because he wished, if possible, to advise Foreign Consulates and Embassies sufficiently in advance of the Court's decision becoming public so that the Consulates and Embassies could make such preparations as might be necessary.

Mr. Benton advised me today that the Massachusetts Supreme Court met in consultation this morning and will possibly continue in consultation during the entire week and that this body may hand down the decision in the Sacco-Vanzetti case although it is not certain it will do so.

Mr. Benton is no longer in office and made it clear that he did not wish his name connected with the case in any way and that accounts for my failure to make known to you, in my telegram of this morning, the medium through which I learned of Mr. Castle's interest.

It is my understanding that William R. Castle is now an Assistant Secretary of State and I wish to advise that it is my impression, gathered from the discreet speech and general attitude of Mr. Benton, that possibly a decision in this matter will be handed down in the very near future. In this regard, however, my opinion is based only upon a reading, so to speak, of his general bearing.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 DJS/AC

ON 6/29/92

JAD:MFD  
Att. #1

State  
3/3/27  
Hu

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,  
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

March 8, 1927.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI Matter

In relation to the above I wish to refer you to the March, 1927, issue of the Atlantic Monthly, in which issue there appears on pages 409-432 an article entitled, "The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti", by Felix Frankfurter, who on page 406 is referred to as a professor of administrative law at the University of Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass. and one who for four years was Assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York.

In connection with this article, which is referred to as the first effort to give the public a complete and accurate resume of the facts of the case, you will observe on pages 418 and 423 of this article comment concerning the Bureau of Investigation of the U. S. Department of Justice.

I believe that this article will prove of considerable interest to you, and I want to add that the article has been made the subject of adverse comment by several attorneys of the Massachusetts bar.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Dowd*

JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:JMC

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MAR 10 1927

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62-116748-1  
FBI INVESTIGATION

**Box 259, Boston, Mass.**

April 12, 1927.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

**Re: SACCO & VANZETTI CASE**

Dear Sir:

Advertising to news items appearing in the press of this city recently concerning the above named matter, permit me to send you enclosed herewith items taken from the Boston Sunday Post for April 10th, 1927, Boston Evening American and Boston Post for April 11th, 1927, and Boston Advertiser for April 12th, 1927, all of which treat of recent developments and contemplated procedure by sympathizers of the above named individuals.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. BOWD  
Special Agent in Charge.

**JAD:MED**

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APR 18 1927

April 16, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SPURGEON.

I am transmitting, attached hereto,  
copy of telegram received from the Bureau's  
Boston Office, dated April 14, 1927, in  
reference to the SAOCC VARETTI case.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 61204.

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DATE 6/29/02 BY SP-1000



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE 5-4-72

Boston, Mass.

Director

Reference Jacobo Vanzetti: Boston Globe April 14th carries small item column 3, page 10, indicating Defense Committee has wired Senator David J. Walsh asking him to check report that Department of Justice, Washington, has a vault full of letters from citizens protesting against Department's failure to open its files in the hope of clearing up the case.

Re: 4, 2:25

Bl

One Dowd

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To Director 2:40

Class. & Ext. By SP-8 BTJ/lac  
Reason: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 5/13/92  
5/13/92

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Div. Two  
FILE

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